

REMARKS


Claims 1-48 and 77-86 are pending in the present application prior to the amendments made herewith. Claims 28, 30, 31, 33-36, 45-47 and 78-86 have been allowed. Claims 1-27, 29, 32, 37-44, 48 and 77 stand rejected, with Claims 3-6, 14, 17 and 18 being subject only to a provisional rejection under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting with respect to copending U.S. Patent Application 09/740,573. By amendment herewith, Claims 1, 5, 6, 28, 36 and 79 are being changed; and Claims 77 and 78 are being cancelled. The amendments are of a formal nature only and are being made to put the claims in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 has been amended to include limitations of allowed dependent Claim 78. Claims 5 and 28 have been amended to place those claims in independent form. The rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a) should be withdrawn. Also, with the filing of the enclosed Terminal Disclaimer, the rejection based on obviousness-type double patenting has been obviated and should be withdrawn.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance and issuance of a Notice Of Allowance is earnestly requested. If the Examiner believes that it would be helpful to discuss any of the amendments presented herein, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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